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USSR REPUBLICS BOOST PRODUCTION  
OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

BELORUSSIAN BRICK INDUSTRY EXPANDS -- Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 3 Feb 51

A large number of brick plants in the Belorussian SSR have been recon-  
structed and modernized. The volume of brick production in 1950 was almost  
double that of 1940. The restored and newly built brick plants were distri-  
buted more evenly over the area of the republic, thus cutting down on transport  
costs. The 1951 plan provides for a brick output of 300 million bricks by  
plants of rayon industry and industrial cooperatives only, which equals the  
brick output by the entire republic in 1940.

LATVIAN INDUSTRY SLOWS DOWN IN 1951 -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 10 Apr 51

The Latvian construction materials industry fulfilled the 1950 plan  
108 percent and exceeded the prewar production level 160 percent. During  
1950, the construction-materials industry mastered the production of ceramic  
blocks, face bricks, and porous concrete tiles for floors of industrial  
buildings. In 1951, the Tesis Plant is to start production of a new build-  
ing material, ground unslaked lime. The central scientific research labora-  
tory of the ministry is working on production methods for unfired bricks  
for the needs of kolkhoz construction.

However, the first-quarter-1951 plan was not fulfilled by the ministry  
as a whole. The Riga Cement Plant operated especially unsatisfactorily.  
Because of inadequate preparations for the winter season, the plant had  
frequent technical shutdowns and machinery was out of operation for lengthy  
periods.

The Sauriyeshi Gypsum Plant has not been operating at full capacity for  
the past 2 years, because the ministry has not supplied a market for the sale  
of the plant's products.

- 1 -

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50X1-HUM

ESTONIAN LIME PLANT IMPROVES PRODUCTION -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 18 Feb 51

The Rakke Lime Plant fulfilled the January plan for lime production 114 percent. The technological method of lime production has been changed after numerous experiments. Wood, which was formerly used as a fuel in the firing process, has now been replaced by shale. This has reduced the cost of each ton of lime almost 50 percent and has improved its quality.

GEORGIAN SSR STEPS UP BRICK PRODUCTION -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 6 Apr 51

One of the most important construction materials in Georgia is brick. The demand for brick is constantly growing because of the widespread development of capital construction in the republic.

In 1951, production of bricks and other construction materials will considerably exceed the 1950 output. For example, the Khashuri Brick Plant has been expanded and reconstructed and is to produce 4 million bricks in 1951 compared to 3 million in 1950. The Saburtalo Plant of Dry Brick Pressing is to produce 1.5 million bricks more than in 1950. The Gurdzhaani, Noairskiy, Samtredia, Ianchkhuti, and other plants, are also increasing their output.

A new mechanized plant of dry pressing was opened in March of this year in Metekhi. This plant is of great importance in the further increase of brick production in the Georgian SSR. The first section of the plant was built by the construction and installation trust of the Ministry of Construction-Materials Industry Georgian SSR in 11 months. The second section of the plant is to be completed by 7 November 1951, at which time the Metekhi Brick Plant is to start operating at full capacity.

ARMENIAN BRICK PLANT USES NEW MATERIAL -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 14 Apr 51

The Yerevan Brick and Tile Plant has begun the season of brick and tile production. A pumice and clay mixture will be used for the production of bricks. The new technology has been developed by specialists of the Ministry of Construction-Materials Industry Armenian SSR together with technical engineering personnel of the plant. Experiments have shown that the new type of mixture has a number of advantages. It dries three or four times faster than the regular mixture and the firing period is about 30 percent shorter. The finished product is much stronger and about 25 percent lighter than the usual type of brick.

The plant is now converting to year-round operation instead of seasonal work. Production of pumice-clay tiles is also being started.

PLANT LAGS DESPITE PREVIOUS GAINS -- Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 5 Jan 51

The Yerevan Mullite Plant fulfilled the Five-Year Plan in October 1950 and exceeded it by more than 48 percent at the end of 1950.

Yerevan, Kommunist, 6 Apr 51

The Yerevan Mullite Plant exceeded the 1950 plan and improved the quality of its products. However, with the beginning of 1951, the plant has been lagging and it completed only 89 percent of the first-quarter plan. The output of first-grade products was only 68.2 percent of the total output instead

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T**SECRET**

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S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

of 80 percent according to plan. The plant administration and supply division have not given sufficient attention to accumulating the necessary supply of raw materials and electrodes. The laboratory operated inefficiently and failed to help plant workers in adopting new production techniques. The plant is producing a large amount of waste.

INCREASES OUTPUT OF BRICKS, LIME, TILES -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 6 Mar 51

Local industry enterprises of the Kirgiz SSR have greatly increased production of bricks and lime. Several rayon industrial combines have started production of roofing tiles. In Pokrovskiy, Kirovskiy, Leninskiy, and many other rayons, industrial combines are building new kilns for firing roofing tiles; brick and lime production has also been expanded.

Local industry enterprises plan to produce a total of 3,500,000 bricks in 1951, to almost double production of lime, and to increase production of tiles more than four times.

Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 17 Mar 51

Reconstruction of the Stalinskoye Brick Plant in the Kirgiz SSR has been completed. The entire production process has been mechanized. The unfired bricks will be transferred directly from the presses by conveyer cars to the driers. From there, they will go automatically to the firing kilns. After firing, the bricks are loaded on trucks by cranes.

Construction of a new shop of tunnel driers has just been completed. By opening this shop, the plant will be able to operate all year and speed up the drying process, reducing the drying period by more than 50 percent. During 1951, the plant intends to produce 12-15 million bricks instead of 8 million bricks as provided by plan.

TURKMEN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY FAILS IN 1950 -- Ashkhabad, Turkmeneskaya Iskra, 23 Feb 51

The construction-materials industry of the Turkmen SSR operated very unsatisfactorily in 1950. The industry fell short of the plan by 7.6 million bricks, 7,500 tons of lime, 9,100 tons of gypsum, and 6,200 cubic meters of "gyusha" (construction limestone). Labor productivity in enterprises of the construction-materials industry is low.

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- 3 -

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